REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE) TRANSMITTAL

Address to:
Mail Stop RCE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

| 09/862,858 |
|----------------------|
| 8373 |
| May 22, 2001 |
| Robert B. Chaffee |
| 3673 |
| Conley, Frederick C. |
| |

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 of the above-identified application.

<u>NOTE</u>: Request for Continued Examination (RCE) practice under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 does not apply to any utility or plant application filed prior to June 8, 1995, or to any design application.

| 1. | Submission required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 | | | | | |
|------------|--|---------------|---------|---|--------------|--|
| | a. | Prev | iously/ | submitted | | |
| | | i. ii. | [] | Consider the amendment(s)/reply under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 previously filed on (Any unentered amendment(s) referred to above will be entered.) Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on | | |
| | | iii. | [] | Other: | | |
| | b. | Enc | losed i | is/are: | | |
| | | i. | [X] | Amendment/Reply | RECEIVED | |
| | ٧ | ii. | [] | Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s) | | |
| | | iii. | [] | Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) | APR 0 1 2004 | |
| | | iv. | [] | Other: | GROUP 3600 | |
| 2. | Mis | Miscellaneous | | | | |
| | | • | for a | Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 C.F.R. § 1.103(c) or a period of months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months) and the Fee of 130.00 under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(i) is enclosed. | | |
| 3. | Fees – The RCE fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(e) is required by 37 C.F.R. §1.114 when the RCE is filed. | | | | | |
| | a. [X] Enclosed is a check in the amount of \$476 which covers: | | | | | |
| | | i. | [X] | RCE fee required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e) | | |
| | | ii. | [X] | Extension of time fee (37 C.F.R. §§ 1.136 and 1.17) | | |
| | | iii. | [X] | Other (Petition for One-Month Extension of Time) | | |
| 4. | If the filing of this RCE necessitates an extension of time under 37 CFR §1.136(a), the applicant hereby requests such extension of time. | | | | | |
| 5 . | If there is no check enclosed, or if the amount of the enclosed check in this RCE is incorrect, the Director is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50/2762. | | | | | |

| 6. CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS | | | | |
|---------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| Customer Number: 37462 | | | | |

| 7. SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED | | | | |
|--|------------------------------------|--|--|--|
| NAME | Jeffrey B. Powers, Reg. No. 45,021 | | | |
| SIGNATURE | Ima h | | | |
| DATE | March 24, 2004 | | | |

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8(a)

The undersigned hereby certifies that this document is being placed in the United States mail with first-class postage attached, addressed to **Mail Stop RCE**, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the 24th day of March, 2004

Maureen Hayes

Applicant:

DOCKET NO: C00852.70013.US

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Robert B. Chaffee

Serial No:

09/862,858

Confirmation No:

8373

Filed:

May 22, 2001

For:

A FASTENER FOR USE WITH A FASTENING

ELEMENT AND AN INFLATABLE DEVICE FOR USE

WITH THE FASTENER

Examiner:

Conley, Frederick C.

Art Unit:

3673

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8(a)

The undersigned hereby certifies that this document is being placed in the United States mail with first-class postage attached, addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the 24th day of March, 2004.

Maureen Hayes

Mail Stop RCE

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 RECEIVED

APR 0 1 2004

GROUP 3600

AMENDMENT

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed November 24, 2003, please amend the aboveidentified application as follows. Changes to the claims are shown by strike through (for deleted matter) and underlining (for added matter).

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 11 of this paper.

03/30/2004 CNGUYEN 00000045 09862858

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